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Appointment of a Systematic Botanist in the Agricultural College, Coimbatore.

* 1837 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that before applications were invited for the vacant post of Systematic Botanist at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, the Director had made a selection from outside the department seeing that his nominee from the department was not acceptable to the Government;

(*b*) whether the Government asked the Director of Agriculture to choose a candidate from the department itself when his nominees were rejected and if not, why not;

(*c*) whether after the separation of teaching and research, the previous definite orders of Government were obtained by the Director of Agriculture for placing Mr. Jivanna Rao in the teaching section itself and if not, why not;

(*d*) whether the Director recommended Mr. Jacob for the post of Systematic Botanist when he was ineligible for it under the rules;

(*e*) whether Mr. Jacob recommended by the Director of Agriculture had given an undertaking when he was specially exempted for admission to the Agricultural College for want of educational qualifications that he will not use the Agricultural College Diploma for entry into public service and if so, the necessity for his entertainment in the department; and

(*f*) whether one Mr. Jivanna Rao had applied for the post of Systematic Botanist and his application considered by the Government?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in negative.

(*b*) The Director was asked to select a suitable candidate from the department or otherwise. It was not considered necessary to restrict the selection to persons of the department only, as the aim of the Government was to get a really efficient candidate for the post.

(*c*) Mr. Jivanna Rao was Assistant Lecturer and Systematic Botanist prior to separation. Later, the designation of the post was changed to Lecturer in Botany and so he automatically got into the post. No separate orders were necessary.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative but he was recommended as he was in the opinion of the Director the most competent Research Botanist in the department.

(*e*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As to the second part the answer is that such an undertaking does not prevent Government from appointing him if he is found competent.

(*f*) No application was received from Mr. Jivanna Rao in response to the advertisement for the post of Systematic Botanist.

Appointment of the Systematic Botanist.

* 1838 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the post of Systematic Botanist in the Madras Agricultural Service has been kept unfilled for nearly two years;

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(b) whether there are not men in the department with necessary academical qualifications and sufficient experience who could have been appointed to this post;

(c) whether it is now proposed to fill the post by the recruitment of an officer now serving under another Government;

(d) whether it is not the hitherto accepted policy of Government that the claims of men in the department should not be ignored and that even in cases where there are no fully qualified men, attempts should be made to train a man already in the department; and

(e) why this training was not given to more than one by the combined Lecturing and Systematic Botanist at a time when there was no separation of teaching and research?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

(d) The accepted policy of the department is to appoint men in the department to such posts provided they are competent and qualified to hold it.

(e) All students of Science are not fit to be trained as Research Workers and the only botanist in the department who by training became competent enough to hold the post was otherwise not qualified. Attempts were made to train others, including Mr. Jivanna Rao, as Research Workers, but without success.

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know what the special qualifications of this person are who calls himself a Systematic Botanist, what degrees he holds, and what work he had done as Systematic Botanist prior to his appointment to this post?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" His qualifications are that he was an assistant in the Government of India Botany section and he had been doing that for the past 10 or 12 years."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know from the hon. Minister what the necessity was for ignoring the claims of men in the department and bringing in a foreigner simply because he is an Ayyar? I should like to know whether this step will not lead to ill-feeling and whether this importation of foreigners from outside the Presidency will not damp the enthusiasm of men in the department to qualify themselves for higher posts. I should like to know also whether it will not block the promotion of experienced men in the department."

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" All these things were considered before the appointment was made."

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" May I know whether there was a committee to select the candidate for this post from among the applicants?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" No, Sir."